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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Progress report on the preparations for the Conference

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/91, decided to convene in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international meeting on population. In resolution 1991/93, the Council decided to call the meeting the International Conference on Population and Development and further defined the objectives and themes of the Conference.

2. The present progress report supplements two previous reports (E/1992/60 and E/1993/49) submitted to the Economic and Social Council by the Secretary-General of the Conference. Those reports were prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/93, in which the Secretary-General of the Conference was requested to report to it at its substantive sessions of 1992, 1993 and 1994 on the progress made in all aspects of the preparatory activities for the Conference.

3. The Council has requested the Conference to address six major groups of issues under the overall theme of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Preparations for the Conference are demonstrating the growing interest in addressing population and related issues directly as well as the growing recognition of the interrelations between population factors and economic and social concerns.

I. SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

A. Organization/meetings

4. In response to General Assembly resolution 47/176, paragraph 8, the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session in February 1993, reconsidered the timing of the second session of the Preparatory Committee and decided that it should be held from 10 to 21 May 1993 at United Nations Headquarters. Represented at that session were over 150 Governments, a large number of organizations of the United Nations system, several other intergovernmental organizations and several hundred non-governmental organizations. The Committee held 17 meetings (7th to 23rd). The report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session is contained in document E/1993/69.

5. The Council decided, in its resolution 1991/93, paragraph 13, that the second session of the Preparatory Committee should review the state of the preparatory work, including the reports of the six expert group meetings. The Secretary-General of the Conference invited the Committee to decide on the type of documents to be adopted by the Conference and to elaborate further the specific issues to be discussed.

6. In addition, the Secretary-General of the Conference suggested that the final Conference document should contain a set of quantifiable, reachable goals on such issues as maternal, infant and child mortality; life expectancy at birth; education, especially for women and girls; gender equality; and the availability of and access to a full range of modern, safe and effective family planning services.

7. At its 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th meetings, from 10 to 14 May 1993, the Committee elected the following bureau members: Chairman, Mr. Fred Sai (Ghana); Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Lionel A. Hurst (Antigua and Barbuda); Mr. Mauro Couto (Brazil), Mr. Tauno Kääriä (Finland), Mr. Andras Klinger (Hungary), Mrs. Usha Vohra (India), Mr. Abdullah Cholil (Indonesia), Mr. Nicolaas H. Biegman (Netherlands) and Ms. Maymouna Diop (Senegal); Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. Jerzy Z. Holzer (Poland); ex officio, Mr. Nabil A. Elaraby (Egypt). This bureau will serve for the remainder of the preparatory process.

B. Main outcome

8. The Preparatory Committee agreed that the issues and recommendations of the final Conference document should be forward-looking, operational and pragmatic. Recommendations for action should take into account regional diversity and country-specific conditions. Many delegations endorsed the suggestion made by the Secretary-General of the Conference that a new action programme should be free-standing and operational in nature, while building on the important achievements of the 1974 and 1984 population conferences.

9. Many delegations mentioned the new climate of agreement and the will to cooperate in the field of population. They also noted the considerable similarities between the approaches of the developed and the developing regions on substantive matters and the broad consensus on the need to examine population issues in the context of development. Delegations stressed the central importance of the human being in all questions of population and development, and the need for population policies and programmes to be based on the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals and couples.

10. All delegations agreed that population, environment and development were inextricably linked. However, many delegations stressed that the Conference should not become too diffuse in its deliberations, should focus on population-related issues and, wherever appropriate, should build upon existing international agreements.

11. There was unanimous agreement that the empowerment of women was an essential factor in achieving population objectives, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Delegations agreed that existing gender inequalities and barriers to women should be eliminated and women's participation at all levels of policy-making and implementation should be increased. The role and responsibilities of men in bringing about gender equality and attitudinal changes, as well as in child-rearing and family planning, were repeatedly emphasized.

12. The right of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, as stated in the World Population Plan of Action, was reaffirmed by a large majority of the participants in the Preparatory Committee. Family planning services were widely recognized as a means of ensuring reproductive rights and promoting maternal and child health. In addition, it was repeatedly stressed that those services should be voluntary, accessible, acceptable and affordable.

13. Many delegations pointed out the unacceptably high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity in many developing countries which the Conference would need to address. Unsafe abortion, the cause of many maternal deaths each year, was recognized as one of the most neglected problems affecting women's lives in many developing countries. Most delegations recognized that abortion was a major public health issue that should be recognized and addressed by the Conference.

14. There was general support for the proposal of the Secretary-General of the Conference to include a set of quantitative goals in the Cairo document with a proposed time-frame of 20 years. Such goals should take into account existing goals as well as regional and national variations. Qualitative goals and objectives could also be included. Additional resources would be required to achieve those goals. There was agreement that the Conference secretariat should further develop that proposal for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee at its third session.

15. Many delegations also stressed the need for the Cairo document to incorporate adequate provisions for the follow-up to commitments made at the Conference, including mechanisms for the review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of Conference objectives.

16. At the 15th meeting, the representative of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development" (E/CONF.84/PC/L.7). At the 23rd meeting, following informal consultations, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee introduced a draft resolution containing a recommendation that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. The Preparatory Committee then decided to recommend the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. That draft resolution was later amended and adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1993 (resolution 1993/76). The General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, will decide on the proposed change in status of the Preparatory Committee.

II. THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

17. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1993/76, decided to extend the third session of the Preparatory Committee from one to three weeks. It will take place at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 22 April 1994, following the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission. The Council, in the same resolution, also decided to convene pre-Conference consultations on 3 and 4 September 1994, at the venue of the Conference.

18. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1993/76, requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare the first draft of the recommendations of the Conference by February 1994. It also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to include in the progress report referred to in General Assembly resolution 47/176, paragraph 20, an annotated outline of the

final document of the Conference; the annotated outline is contained in document A/48/430/Add.1.

19. Following upon the six expert group meetings convened as part of the substantive preparations for the Conference, a number of Governments and organizations are organizing ad hoc round-table meetings on specific topics as additional activities preparatory to the Conference. The Conference secretariat has been invited by the organizers to participate in those round tables. To date, five such round-table meetings have been or are being organized: Women's Perspectives on Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (Ottawa, 26-27 August 1993); Population Policies, Programmes and HIV/AIDS (Berlin, 28 September-1 October 1993); Population and Development Strategies (Bangkok, 17-19 November 1993); Population and Sustainable Development in the post-UNCED Period (Geneva, 24-26 November 1993); and Population and Communication (Vienna, 2-3 December 1993). The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) devoted an entire one-day session of its Twenty-second General Population Conference (Montreal, 24 August-1 September 1993) to reviewing and commenting on the issues that will be on the agenda of the Conference.

III. UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

20. In addition to the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 19 units, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system have designated focal points for the Conference. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/176, paragraph 10, encouraged the coordination of activities of the United Nations system for the Conference through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The ACC Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting for the International Conference on Population and Development held its second session in Geneva on 13 July 1993. Thirteen United Nations entities were represented: the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNFPA, the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

21. The Inter-agency Meeting reviewed the status of the preparatory activities for the Conference. Particular attention was paid to the results of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. In addition, the Inter-agency Meeting discussed the contributions of the different units, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system to the preparation of the report on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action. The Secretary-General of the Conference also invited members of the Inter-agency Meeting to prepare contributions to the proposed action programme that would be adopted by the Conference in 1994. The third meeting of the ACC Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting has been tentatively scheduled to take place during the substantive session of 1994 of the Economic and Social Council.

22. The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations organized a meeting of autonomous United Nations research institutes to discuss and coordinate the collective contribution that they could make to the Conference. The meeting, chaired by the Rector of the United Nations University, took place at United Nations Headquarters on 2 October 1992. It was agreed that each institute would prepare a short summary of the findings of its ongoing or recently completed research activities related to the overall theme of the Conference, together with operational recommendations based on those findings. The United Nations University is the focal point for the undertaking, bringing together and synthesizing the inputs of the research institutes in a collective contribution to be transmitted to the Preparatory Committee.

23. In addition to the above arrangements, there is an interdepartmental working group for the Conference composed of representatives of the different departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat. UNDP and UNICEF have each seconded a staff member to the Conference secretariat; in addition, UNICEF is funding a professional post within the Conference secretariat.

IV. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

24. General Assembly resolution 47/176, paragraph 14, stressed the importance of regional perspectives on population and development and welcomed the convening of population conferences by the United Nations regional commissions and UNFPA. Five regional conferences have been held in preparation for the Conference: the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (Denpasar, Indonesia, 19-27 August 1992); the Third African Population Conference (Dakar, 7-12 December 1992); the European Population Conference (Geneva, 23-26 March 1993); the Arab Population Conference (Amman, 4-8 April 1993); and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 29 April-4 May 1993). Three of the regional conferences adopted a declaration, one adopted a consensus statement and the other adopted a set of recommendations on population and development. Those documents were made available by the Conference secretariat to the Preparatory Committee at its second session in the languages used by the regional conferences. There were a total of 348 recommendations.

25. A synthesis of the regional conferences is currently being prepared by the Conference secretariat. The report will contain an overview of common concerns and priorities as well as region-specific ones. The Conference secretariat will request the Economic and Social Council, at its 1994 organizational session, to include the synthesis as part of the official documentation for the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

26. As a follow-up to the regional conferences, several subregional conferences have been held or are being organized. Following the Arab Population Conference in April 1993, the Maghreb countries (Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) held a meeting on population and development in Tunis from 7 to 10 July 1993 to forge a collective strategy on population and related issues. In Port Vila, Vanuatu, the South Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Population and Sustainable Development was held from 6 to 10 September 1993 to discuss subregional population issues and to formulate collective positions on

issues that will be discussed during the remainder of the preparatory process and at the International Conference. In addition, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, in cooperation with UNFPA, will organize a Ministerial Conference on Women and Family Health in Kathmandu from 21 to 23 November 1993, as part of the region's preparation for the Conference.

V. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

27. With a view to encouraging maximum national participation in the preparatory process for the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference invited all countries to establish national committees on population to serve as focal points for national preparatory activities. To date, more than 100 countries have informed the Conference secretariat of the establishment of such committees. In many cases, committees have taken the form of cross-sectoral, inter-ministerial ad hoc committees. In some cases, a single ministry or other government agency will coordinate the national-level activities for the Conference.

28. The principal activities of the national committees are the preparation of the national report on population and public awareness initiatives, both for the Conference and for population issues in general. The guidelines for the preparation of the national reports were sent to Governments through their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in July 1992. The deadline for submission of reports to the Conference secretariat was 30 September 1993. A synthesis of the national reports will be prepared by the Conference secretariat and presented to the Preparatory Committee at its third session; it will also be made available to the Conference.

29. At their request, 80 countries, including the majority of least developed countries, have received funding for national-level activities through the UNFPA Trust Fund for the Conference. Funding has been used mostly to assist in the preparation of national reports, including the hiring of national consultants and the organization of consultative meetings.

VI. PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

30. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1993/4, responded to a request from the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/176, paragraph 13, to formulate and adopt modalities to ensure the participation of and contribution to the Conference and its preparatory process of relevant non-governmental organizations, particularly those from the developing countries, taking into account the procedures followed in the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the experience gained in previous United Nations population conferences. In resolution 1993/4 the Council established criteria for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations and decided that the secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development would be responsible for the receipt and preliminary evaluation of requests for accreditation.

31. Interest of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process has continued to develop during the past year. At the

second session of the Preparatory Committee, 332 non-governmental organizations sought and received accreditation in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/4. In addition, 69 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council also participated in the preparatory process for the Conference. Approximately 400 accredited non-governmental organizations were represented at the second session of the Preparatory Committee. Applications for accreditation will continue to be received and assessed by the Conference secretariat until shortly before the third session of the Preparatory Committee. The Secretary-General of the Conference has encouraged Member States to include representatives of national non-governmental organizations in their delegations to the Preparatory Committee and to the Conference itself.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

32. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/176, paragraph 18, the Conference secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat, has endeavoured to ensure the timely circulation of documentation, including reports of regional conferences and expert group meetings, as well as other documentation for the Preparatory Committee.

33. The dissemination of information on the objectives, activities and outcomes of the Conference, through publications and other information activities, will be of major importance to the success of the Conference. The Conference secretariat publishes a newsletter every two months in English, French and Spanish, 20,000 copies of which are distributed world wide. Other information items already developed include a poster, a logo for the Conference, buttons, a video on the second session of the Preparatory Committee, press kits and a brochure.

34. In the initial budget forecast for the Conference, US$ 400,000 has been tentatively proposed for the biennium 1994-1995 for information activities of the Conference. As a consequence of continued budgetary constraints, it has been proposed that this amount be reduced to US$ 200,000. Such a reduction in the regular budget funding will place additional demands on extrabudgetary resources and may result in some curtailment of planned activities. Currently, information activities are funded either by UNFPA or through extrabudgetary contributions.

VIII. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND STATUS OF FUNDING FOR THE CONFERENCE

35. For the biennium 1992-1993, the General Assembly, in resolution 46/186, approved appropriations for the Conference from the United Nations regular budget totalling US$ 1,485,000. An additional US$ 558,400 for the same biennium was to be sought from extrabudgetary resources. The funds required for further preparations and for the holding of the Conference will be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and will be considered by the General Assembly in accordance with established procedures.

36. Two trust funds were established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The first, the Trust Fund for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (General Trust Fund), is used to support preparatory activities. A total of US$ 939,769 has been contributed to that Fund by Denmark, France, the Netherlands (through UNFPA), Sweden and the United States of America. In addition, India has contributed locally towards the costs of one of the expert group meetings which was held in Bangalore, India. The second fund, the Voluntary Fund for Supporting Developing Countries' Participation in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, was established to facilitate the participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the preparatory process and the Conference itself. Thus far, Austria, Finland, France, Spain and Sweden have made pledges or contributions totalling US$ 663,080.

37. A UNFPA Trust Fund for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, has been established for the purpose of supporting national preparatory activities, including meetings and studies at the country level, public information/awareness-creation, and other conference-related costs. Thus far, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, the European Community, UNFPA and UNICEF have contributed or pledged to the Fund a total of US$ 3,124,579.

38. The Secretary-General of the Conference is continuing vigorous fund-raising efforts for the above-mentioned trust funds. Additional contributions are expected to be forthcoming.

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Addendum

Annotated outline of the final document of the Conference

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly, as an annex to the present note, an annotated outline of the final document of the International Conference on Population and Development. The annotated outline has been prepared, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Conference, in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/76 requesting that the annotated outline be included in the progress report referred to in paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 47/176. The first draft of the final document based on the present annotated outline will be discussed by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its third session from 4 to 22 April 1994.

Annex

ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Part One

PREAMBLE AND PRINCIPLES

Chapter I

PREAMBLE

1. The preamble will convey the vision and purpose of the International Conference on Population and Development and define the context of the proposed action programme. The preamble will cover the following elements:

(a) Brief survey of present population dynamics and their interrelations with current social, economic and political trends, bringing out the interaction between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

(b) Overview of the experience gained in the field of population policies and programmes during the past 20 years. This assessment, based on the findings of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action adopted in 1974, will provide the critical foundation for the development of goals and strategies for the future.

(c) Brief presentation of the objectives and general goals contained in the proposed action programme.

(d) General introduction to the set of actions necessary to achieve the proposed population objectives that are consistent with sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Particular emphasis will be given to human rights, as well as to the socio-economic situation of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

(e) Indication of the resources and efforts required for the implementation of the proposed action programme.

(f) Reference to the most relevant intergovernmental instruments relating to population, economic and social development and sustainability.

Chapter II

PRINCIPLES

2. This section of the proposed action programme will provide the guiding philosophy in the area of population and development well into the twenty-first century. The principles will build as much as possible on agreed international instruments, including the World Population Plan of Action, 1/ the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, held at Mexico City, in 1984, 2/ the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, 3/ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 4/ and Agenda 21 5/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992. They will also reflect the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 6/ and the applicable provisions of human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, 7/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 8/ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 9/ the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women 10/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 11/ The guiding principles will be organized around the following major topics:

(a) Human rights and population: recognizing obligations and responsibilities. Protection of rights of individuals; elimination of all forms of discrimination; rights, obligations and responsibilities of couples and individuals in relation to their sexual and reproductive life; protection of vulnerable groups; and opposition to all forms of coercion to have or not to have children.

(b) The responsibility of society for human development, reproductive health and family planning: ensuring choices and responsibilities.

(c) Sustainable development and population. Linkages between population, resource use, consumption, environmental impact and repercussions on the quality of life for present and future generations.

(d) Partnership in population: moving from commitment to action. Mutual responsibility and interdependence among individuals, social groups and nations.

Part Two

CHOICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chapter III

THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN POPULATION, SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3. This chapter will address the inextricable interdependence between population, resources, the environment and development. In addition to reaffirming the relevance of key intergovernmental instruments such as the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and Agenda 21, the Conference is expected to provide guidance for the formulation of population policies and programmes that seek to simultaneously achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development, taking into account the interlinkages of population with poverty; production and consumption patterns; environmental quality; natural resources; and economic, social and gender inequality.

A. Population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development

Basis for action

4. All countries, and especially the developing countries, where almost all of the future growth of the world population will occur, face increasing difficulties to improve the quality of life of their people in a sustainable manner. Many of those countries experience major development obstacles, among which are those related to the persistence of trade imbalances, the slow down in the world economy, the increasing burden of debt servicing and growing "aid-fatigue" of the international donor community. Lack of development or unbalanced development and poverty are often associated with inappropriate spatial distribution of the population and undesirable environmental conditions. The critical challenge in all countries, whether developed, developing or in transition, is to improve the quality of life for present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It cannot be addressed without recognizing the strong linkages between population, resources, the environment and development.

Objectives

5. To create an international environment favourable to the realization of the right to development and to establish consistent policy frameworks that promote balanced and sustainable development, recognizing population factors as an integral part of any environmentally sustainable policy and programme.

Selected topics for recommendations

6. Need to foster sustained economic growth in developing countries, by all appropriate means, including reduction of trade barriers, debt relief, investment in sustainable job-creating projects and promotion of relevant technologies. Formulation of long-term policies and programmes that simultaneously address population growth, alleviate poverty and reduce social

inequality in both rural and urban settings. Ensuring that policies and programmes are responsive to the needs of the poor in all countries, particularly in health, education, training, and family planning and maternal and child health programmes.

B. Population, socio-economic development and poverty alleviation

Basis for action

7. Widespread poverty is a major challenge to development efforts as poverty is often accompanied by ignorance, illiteracy, low status of women and limited access to health and family-planning services, all these factors tending to result in high levels of fertility, morbidity and mortality. Women are often among the poorest of the poor. Alleviating the conditions of abject poverty under which close to 1 billion people live today is an integral part of the agenda for sustainable development. It is also necessary to prepare for meeting the basic needs of the population that will inevitably be added in the near future. The goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade aim at responding to such concerns.

Objectives

8. To break the poverty-population growth cycle through integrated population and development policies and programmes that recognize the key role of human resources in national development and give strong emphasis in national planning and policy-making to the development of human resources. To make equity in the allocation of resources and access to services an important element of national policy, designing policies and strategies to ensure that the benefits of development are widely shared.

Selected topics for recommendations

9. Making the alleviation of poverty, the achievement of equitable social and economic relations, and the provision of basic infrastructure and social welfare services key components of socio-economic development and central factors for harmonizing demographic trends with sustainable development. Need to give high priority to investments and expenditures to facilitate access to education, training and credit to all deprived sectors of society, as well as to economic policies that increase their opportunity to participate in the formal labour force; particular attention should be given to the situation of poor women.

C. Population and the environment

Basis for action

10. Current patterns of population growth and spatial distribution, associated with present levels and patterns of production and consumption exert increasing pressures on the carrying capacity of the planet, which is understood as the number of people that the planet can support at an acceptable level of quality of life, without irreversibly reducing its capacity to support people in the

future. This carrying capacity is being exceeded in many parts of the world. Some areas are characterized by deep and widespread poverty, while others are affluent. Associated issues are the loss of agricultural land, due either to soil degradation and erosion or conversion to urban land; the destruction of forests; water problems such as scarcity, depletion and pollution; loss of biological diversity; and climatic change.

Objectives

11. To recognize the critical nature of environmental degradation and the role of demographic variables. To adopt environmentally sustainable development strategies giving due priority to social programmes and policies, including those on population and education. To address the underlying causes of environmental degradation such as poverty and unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

Selected topics for recommendations

12. Formulation of enforceable measures to promote greater harmony between population, resources, environment and development, so as to achieve improved quality of life on a sustainable basis. Identification of critically endangered areas subject to acute population pressures and formulation of actions needed to alleviate pressures on the environment. Finding durable solutions to problems related to environmentally displaced persons.

Chapter IV

GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

13. Gender equality is recognized as a human rights issue by the numerous international agreements and declarations since the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, including the World Population Plan of Action (1974) and the recommendations for its further implementation adopted at the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984), the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1985), the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations (1989), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) and the World Conference on Human Rights (1993). Nevertheless, discrimination continues against women and girls. Hence, the need to empower women and to improve their status is acknowledged by most Governments. In addition, improvement in the status of women is a key development issue because of women's vital and multiple roles. It is widely accepted that improvements in women's advancement, health, education and employment, are mutually reinforcing and should be pursued simultaneously in a holistic manner. Changes in men's and women's attitudes and behaviour are necessary conditions for achieving full gender equality.

A. Empowerment and the status of women

Basis for action

14. The improvement of the status of women, particularly with respect to education, health and economic autonomy, is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it affects and is in turn affected by demographic variables such as fertility and maternal, infant and child mortality. Experience shows that population and development programmes are most effective when measures have been taken to improve the status of women.

Objectives

15. To achieve full gender equality. To fully integrate women into population and development programmes, both as beneficiaries and as active participants.

Selected topics for recommendations

16. Encouragement of women to participate in the political process, particularly at the grass-roots level and promotion of women's economic security, right to inherit or own land and access to credit. Achieving balanced representation of both sexes in population and development programmes, especially at management and policy-making levels, both in the Government and private sectors. Combating violence against women and girls, including sexual violence.

B. Male responsibilities and participation

Basis for action

17. In general, men exercise preponderant power in nearly every sphere of life, including personal decisions regarding family planning and the policy and programme decisions taken at all levels of Government. It is essential to improve communication between men and women, and the understanding of their respective and joint responsibilities, so that women and men are seen as equal partners in public and private life.

Objectives

18. To promote gender equity by ensuring that men understand and accept full and equal responsibility in both family and community life, with regard to all issues of mutual concern to men and women.

Selected topics for recommendations

19. Full and active participation of men in all areas of family and community responsibilities, so that these responsibilities may be equally shared by women and men.

C. The girl child

Basis for action

20. Since discrimination on the basis of sex starts at the earliest stages of life, full equality for the girl child is a necessary condition for women to fulfil their potential and to contribute effectively to society. Investments made in the girl child's health and education are steps towards raising the age at marriage and reducing early child-bearing, while also increasing her options later in life.

Objectives

21. To increase public awareness of the value of the girl child and eliminate the root causes for son preference. To strengthen the girl child's self-image and self-esteem and improve the status of the girl child, especially in health, nutrition and education.

Selected topics for recommendations

22. Access by girls and women to education and improvement of the quality and relevance of their education, including the elimination of gender stereotyping in school curricula and in the media. Enforcement of minimum legal age at marriage, paying attention to the provision of alternatives to early marriage such as educational and employment opportunities.

Chapter V

THE FAMILY, ITS ROLES, COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

23. The family, in its many forms, is a basic unit of society and it is the social institution within which most child-bearing and child-rearing occur. These two universal roles are complemented by other important functions such as the mutual support of its members and, in many countries, the care of the disabled and the elderly. The large diversity of family forms and structures reflects how these functions are accomplished, how societies value and protect their families, and which patterns of family formation are prevalent in a particular social context. Families are important agents of sustainable development at all levels of society and their contribution to that process is crucial. The family also plays an important role in the intergenerational transmission of social values as a primary agent of socialization and is therefore a potential agent of social change.

A. Diversity of family structures and composition

Basis for action

24. There are numerous concepts of the family around the world; this diversity corresponds to the wide variety of social, political and cultural systems. As part of the process of rapid demographic and socio-economic change in both developed and developing countries, patterns of family formation are undergoing

considerable change so that the composition and structure of families are being altered. In many societies, a traditional gender-based division of productive and reproductive functions within the family coexists with new arrangements. The recognition of the diversity of family forms is important because in many cases policies and programmes relative to the family still refer only to specific sizes and forms of the family that may no longer be predominant; this issue is particularly important in reference to gender equality and the rights of children.

Objectives

25. To adopt policies and laws recognizing and supporting the plurality of family forms, including due attention to the large number of households headed by women.

Selected topics for recommendations

26. Provision of means (i.e., social services, kindergartens, part-time jobs, flexible schedules etc.) to facilitate compatibility between professional and parental roles. Elimination of all forms of coercion and discrimination in policies and practices related to marriage and to child-bearing.

B. Socio-economic support to the family

Basis for action

27. As a basic unit of society, the family is entitled to receive protection by society and the State. In many parts of the world the rapid process of development intensifies the strains on family life. There is an increasing number of vulnerable families, including single-parent families headed by poor women, poor families with disabled members, families separated by the working conditions of their members, refugee and displaced families, families affected by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or by family disintegration, domestic violence and child abuse or neglect.

Objectives

28. To formulate "family-sensitive" policies aimed at providing support particularly to vulnerable families. To introduce the concept of "family impact" into the process of preparation of plans, policies and programmes of social and economic development.

Selected topics for recommendations

29. Assistance to families which manifest specific problems (i.e., domestic violence, drug and alcohol dependency, sexual and child abuse, neglect etc.), have special responsibilities (i.e., handicapped members, care of the dependent elderly etc.), or are in a particular vulnerable position (i.e., circumstances of war, drought, famine, racial and ethnic violence, economic deprivation etc.). Establishing guidelines for monitoring the implementation of family policies and programmes.

Chapter VI

POPULATION GROWTH AND STRUCTURE

30. Growth of the world population, in absolute numbers, is likely to persist at levels near the present all-time high in the coming decades. There are also remarkable differences between regions and countries in terms of population growth and its fertility and mortality components. These levels and differentials have implications for the ultimate size and regional distribution of the world population and for population structure characteristics, in particular population ageing. Action is required to take more fully into account the variety of trends in population growth and structure in the context of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

A. Diversity of fertility, mortality and population growth rates

Basis for action

31. Within the context of the ongoing transition from high to low levels of fertility and mortality, important variations exist both at the regional level and within regions and countries, reflecting the present position of countries in their passage through the different stages of their demographic transition. The majority of countries are converging to low rates of population growth but at different speeds of decline, thus yielding rates of growth that are increasingly diverse. In addition, a substantial minority of populations are still at a pre-transitional stage or at the very beginning of their transition.

Objectives

32. To reduce the disparities in regional fertility and mortality levels and achieve early stabilization of the world population.

Selected topics for recommendations

33. Action required to accelerate the demographic transition in those countries that desire such an acceleration.

B. Children and youth

Basis for action

34. Owing to declining mortality levels and the persistence of high fertility levels, a large number of developing countries continue to have substantial proportions of children and young people in their populations. The ongoing and future demands created by their large young populations, particularly in terms of health, education and employment, represent a major challenge.

Objectives

35. To promote to the fullest extent the well-being of all children and youth in line with the commitments made in this respect at the World Summit for Children.

Selected topics for recommendations

36. Giving priority and higher levels of attention to all dimensions of human development for children and youth.

C. Ageing populations

Basis for action

37. There have been notable increases in the proportion and number of persons at older ages in the population of most countries, a trend resulting from the decline in fertility levels, reinforced by continued declines in mortality levels among the elderly. The situation of developing countries that have experienced very rapid declines in their levels of fertility deserves particular attention. In most societies the elderly population is composed of considerably more women than men and in many societies, elderly poor women are especially vulnerable. The steady increase of older age groups in national populations has significant implications for both the developed and the developing countries. The economic and social impact of this "ageing of populations" is both an opportunity and a challenge to all societies.

Objectives

38. To create conditions that allow the elderly to work and live independently in their own communities for as long as possible and as desired.

Selected topics for recommendations

39. Need to ensure that long-term socio-economic planning takes into account the needs of increasingly large proportions of elderly persons in the population. Strengthening formal and informal safety nets for the elderly in all countries.

D. Disabled persons

Basis for action

40. The implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) contributed towards increased awareness and expanded knowledge of disability issues, increased the role played by persons with disabilities and by concerned organizations, and the improvement and expansion of disability legislation. However, there remains a pressing need for continued action to promote effective measures for the prevention of disability, for rehabilitation and for the realization of the goals of full participation and equality for persons with

disabilities. By resolution 47/88 of 16 December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly encouraged the consideration by the International Conference on Population and Development of disability issues relevant to the subject-matter of the Conference.

Objectives

41. To ensure the participation of disabled people in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life to the fullest extent of their abilities.

Selected topics for recommendations

42. Recognition of the needs of disabled persons concerning, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health, including family-planning services and elimination of the specific forms of discrimination that disabled people may face with regard to international migration, reproductive rights and household and family formation.

E. Indigenous people

Basis for action

43. In many regions of the world, indigenous people are experiencing steady and, in some places, rapid population growth resulting from improved access, often belated, to health and welfare services. At national, regional and international levels, the perspectives of indigenous people are gaining increasing recognition, most recently at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the marking of the United Nations Year of Indigenous People. This section will give recognition to the specific perspective of indigenous people on the interrelations between population, the environment and development.

Objectives

44. To ensure that the various perspectives of indigenous people on population and development are brought before the national and international communities, taking into account the commitments made during the United Nations Year of Indigenous People and the ongoing activities of the proposed International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Selected topics for recommendations

45. Recognizing the distinct perspective of indigenous people on aspects of population and development and addressing their specific needs.

Chapter VII

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

46. The cornerstone of reproductive rights is the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number

and spacing of their children. Although reproductive and sexual health are central to people's lives, many persons fail to achieve it because the relevant information and means, including those related to family planning, may not be available to them. The disparities are especially marked between those in the developed and the developing countries. The result is unnecessarily high levels of reproductive mortality and morbidity in many developing countries, a problem that must be addressed by promoting reproductive and sexual health for all people as the fundamental basis for publicly supported reproductive health and family-planning programmes.

A. Reproductive health

Basis for action

47. Reproductive health is not merely absence of disease or disorders of the reproductive process. It implies that people have the ability and choice to reproduce, to regulate their fertility and to practise and enjoy sexual relationships. Family planning and safe motherhood are essential components of reproductive health. The attainment of optimal reproductive health eludes many persons owing to inadequate knowledge about human sexuality, inappropriate sexual behaviour, gender bias and inappropriate, inadequate information and services or owing to involuntary sterility. Unsafe abortion is one of the most neglected underlying causes of reproductive ill health, and constitutes a major public health issue. Genital mutilation is also an obstacle to reproductive health. Concerning all factors of reproductive ill health, women, adolescents and disadvantaged population groups are particularly vulnerable. Finally, reproductive health cannot be achieved without the full involvement of both women and men.

Objectives

48. To ensure the provision of appropriate information and services that are free of coercion, voluntary, accessible, affordable, acceptable and promoting informed choice. To provide services that respond to the changing reproductive and sexual health needs of individuals and couples over the life cycle and reflect the social, cultural, economic and demographic diversity of the communities they serve.

Selected topics for recommendations

49. Ensuring that reproductive health services for men and women of all ages have a client-centred approach, are cost-effective, follow high standards of quality and include maternity care, family planning, prevention and treatment of infertility, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and referral of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection and AIDS, and education and information on sexuality and responsible parenthood. Full involvement of women in the formulation and implementation of reproductive health programmes. Review of the legal and regulatory barriers to reproductive health such as early or enforced marriages, illegality of abortion, maternity leave regulations and access to reproductive health services.

B. Family planning

Basis for action

50. Over the past three decades, the emergence of acceptable, safer methods of modern contraception has permitted greater individual freedom and control of reproduction. However, these family-planning methods remain unavailable to many persons who need them, both women and men. Proper widespread use of family-planning services saves the lives and health of millions of women and children. Such services are also a cost-effective intervention, because of their many direct and indirect benefits for individuals, couples and communities. The experience of the past decades points at the importance of promoting informed choice and availability of a wide range of safe and effective contraceptive methods and ensuring that women play a central role in the design and implementation of family-planning services. Many family-planning programmes have benefited from partnerships between public, non-governmental and private sectors.

Objectives

51. To help couples and individuals to achieve the desired number and spacing of their children, thereby reducing the incidence and risk of unwanted pregnancies. To reduce the incidence of high-risk pregnancies. To extend coverage and improve access to family-planning services to all who need them. To improve the quality of family-planning services for women and men. A quantitative goal concerning the size of the unmet need for family-planning information and services and the resources required to meet that need will be proposed for adoption by the Conference.

Selected topics for recommendations

52. Ensuring easily accessible and available high-quality family-planning counselling and services responsive to individual needs, in particular through improved human resource planning, selection and training of staff and community involvement in the delivery of family-planning services. Removal of unnecessary and inappropriate legal, medical and regulatory barriers to access to family planning while continuing to ensure safety. Making information, services and supplies available to unreached populations. Ensuring sufficient and continuous supply of contraceptive commodities and strengthening of logistics systems.

C. Human sexuality and gender relations

Basis for action

53. Human sexuality and gender relations are closely interrelated and together affect the ability of men and women to achieve and maintain sexual health and control their fertility. Responsible sexuality and sensitivity in gender relations, particularly when instilled during the formative years, enhance and promote respectful and harmonious relationships.

Objectives

54. To ensure that men and women have access to information, education and services to exercise their reproductive and sexual rights. To foster mutually respectful gender relations as an important requisite of sexual and reproductive health.

Selected topics for recommendations

55. Fostering acceptance among men and women of the importance of equal rights in sexual relationships through sex education and counselling for boys and girls in and beyond the formal school system. Promotion of responsible and safe sexuality and parenthood.

D. Adolescents

Basis for action

56. Motherhood at a young age entails a risk of maternal death much greater than the average, and the children of young mothers also fare less well. In many countries, sexually active adolescents of both sexes are increasingly at high risk of contracting and transmitting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection, and they are often poorly informed about how to protect themselves. In many societies, adolescents are facing increasing pressures to engage prematurely in sexual activity. Young women, particularly poor teenage girls, are especially vulnerable because of their subordinate social position. Millions of teenage girls world wide seek abortions every year, which attests to the critical importance of the issue of unwanted pregnancy. Overall, for young women, early marriage and early motherhood severely curtail educational and employment opportunities. Programmes addressing these issues have shown to be more effective when they secure the full involvement of adolescents in identifying and searching for solutions to their reproductive and sexual health needs, including support to those who wish to abstain from sexual activity.

Objectives

57. To address adolescent reproductive health issues, including HIV infection and AIDS, through the promotion of responsible and healthy reproductive and sexual behaviour. To protect the human rights and well-being of adolescents and to promote their active involvement in the process of socio-economic development.

Selected topics for recommendations

58. Recognition of the special needs of adolescents and the programmes required to meet those needs, including education programmes in the areas of family planning, family life, reproductive and sexual health, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and AIDS and reproductive health services, including family-planning services specially designed to meet the needs of adolescents.

Chapter VIII

HEALTH AND MORTALITY

59. Although mortality has continued to decline at the world level, there are sizeable population groups within countries and entire national populations that still experience high morbidity and mortality rates. Child survival has increased, but high infant and child mortality rates still prevail in some population groups and regions. Women in the developing world continue to experience high maternal mortality. Another cause of great concern is the increasing incidence of HIV infection and AIDS among children of HIV-infected mothers. The health of the adult population in the working ages is being negatively affected by the spread of HIV infection and certain forms of behaviour, such as the consumption of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, pointing to the need for changes in lifestyles. The growing number of older people is associated with an increase in the incidence of non-communicable diseases. Adequate access to health care is still not available to a large portion of the world population.

A. Maternal morbidity and mortality

Basis for action

60. Maternal mortality is one of the leading causes of death among women of child-bearing age in the developing world. At the global level, about half a million women continue to die each year from pregnancy-related causes; 99 per cent of them in developing countries. Maternal mortality rates vary widely. In a majority of developed countries, maternal mortality rates are below 10 deaths per 100,000 live births. In contrast, for the less developed regions, the estimated rate is 420 deaths per 100,000 live births, with Africa having an estimated rate of 630 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. In developing countries, mortality resulting from complications of poorly performed abortions accounts for a significant percentage of maternal deaths. There is a particular need to monitor the progress made in reducing maternal mortality so as to enhance the effectiveness of ongoing and future programmes.

Objectives

61. To achieve a rapid and substantial reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality in accordance with quantitative goals to be adopted by the Conference for the period up to 2015.

Selected topics for recommendations

62. Need to increase the provision of maternity services in the context of primary health care and improve those services by including safe-motherhood education, nutrition programmes, family planning, prenatal and postnatal care and delivery assistance by adequately trained birth attendants. Need to address the problem of maternal deaths and complications resulting from unsafe abortion.

B. Infant and child mortality

Basis for action

63. Important progress has been made in reducing infant and child mortality rates everywhere, although improvements have been slower in sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that during the period 1990-1995, over 100 out of every 1,000 children born alive will die before age 1 in a number of African and Asian countries, compared with only 12 per 1,000 in more developed countries as a whole. The mortality of children under age 5 exhibits a similar pattern. Poverty, malnutrition, ignorance of proper sanitation, inadequacy of health facilities, social unrest and wars are factors associated with high infant and child mortality. Early, late, frequent and multiple pregnancies intensify the risks of infant and child mortality.

Objectives

64. To improve the health status of infants and children, to reduce the incidence of low birth weight and to lower infant and child mortality in line with the commitment of Governments made at the World Summit for Children. The document will include quantitative goals for infant mortality reduction for the period up to 2015.

Selected topics for recommendations

65. Promotion of comprehensive mother-and-child health services, including prenatal care, child-spacing, breast-feeding, infant and child health-care services, greater immunization coverage, prevention and management of childhood diseases and proper nutrition counselling.

C. Sexually transmitted diseases and acquired immune deficiency syndrome

Basis for action

66. The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases continues to be high, with an estimated annual number of cases surpassing 250 million. In the developed world the incidence of many sexually transmitted diseases caused by bacteria have stabilized but in the developing world that incidence appears to be increasing. In addition, over 1 million people a year are becoming newly infected with HIV, the virus causing AIDS. The AIDS pandemic has emerged in both developed and developing countries as a major public health issue, threatening to undermine major gains in the reduction of morbidity and mortality. The World Health Organization estimates that as of mid-1993 over 2.5 million cumulative AIDS cases have occurred but more than 14 million people world wide have been infected since the epidemic began, including more than 1 million children infected with HIV through their mothers. The estimated distribution of cumulative HIV infections in adults as of mid-1993 shows that approximately four fifths of all cases occurred in the developing countries, where the infection is increasingly being transmitted through heterosexual intercourse.

Objectives

67. To strengthen the contribution that family-planning programmes can make to the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, with special attention to HIV infection.

Selected topics for recommendations

68. Strengthening programmes that minimize sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection through the promotion of safe and responsible sex and the provision of sexual health education and of preventive, diagnostic and curative treatment to inhibit the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

D. Primary health care and the health-care sector

Basis for action

69. There have been important advances in improving access to the essential elements of primary health care and making available basic curative health services, as reflected in the sustained increases in life expectancy at birth in most parts of the world. Notable achievements include the vaccination of about 80 per cent of the children in the world and the wide use of low-cost child survival techniques such as oral rehydration therapy. Despite such progress, large segments of the population (mainly the poor) lack access to public services, such as clean water and sanitation facilities, and are thus at greater risk of infectious disease. In many countries and regions, the health effects of environmental degradation (including workplace environmental conditions) are increasingly a cause for grave concern. Various forms of substance abuse (tobacco, alcohol and drugs), inappropriate diets and lack of exercise have been found to hamper progress in mortality and morbidity conditions, particularly among the poor and those unreached by health education. There is also concern about the reduction of social investment in health that has taken place in many countries as a result of structural adjustment programmes.

Objectives

70. To attain further and more widely shared progress in general morbidity and mortality reduction, in accordance with intergovernmental commitments to provide health for all. Revised quantitative goals for increased expectation of life will be proposed for adoption by the Conference.

Selected topics for recommendations

71. Securing improved access to primary health-care services, with increased attention to the prevention of ill-health caused by environmental degradation, and to the promotion of changes in lifestyle patterns that are conducive to better health.

Chapter IX

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, URBANIZATION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

72. Migration and urbanization are intrinsic parts of the development process. Although rural-rural and urban-urban migration are the dominant forms of spatial mobility in many countries, attention has mostly been focused on rural-urban flows because of their contribution to urban population growth. The latest United Nations estimates indicate that the majority of the world population will live in urban areas by 2005. There are, however, marked differences in the levels and rates of urbanization among regions and countries. The less developed regions are undergoing rapid urbanization, a process that is projected to continue for decades to come. In contrast, the rate of urbanization in the more developed regions is slow and is expected to remain so. However, whereas the rural population of the more developed regions is declining, that of the less developed regions continues to increase despite rural-urban migration.

A. Population distribution, natural resources and the environment

Basis for action

73. The mode of development affects both migration and the resulting patterns of population distribution. In rural areas, land degradation often leads to migration both to urban and to other rural areas. In urban areas, environmental strains are also prompting people to move. Yet, to the extent that industry, financial services and communication facilities remain spatially concentrated in urban areas, they will continue to encourage an unbalanced population distribution. The pursuit of sustainable development is likely to foster more manageable population distribution patterns and eliminate migration prompted by environmental push factors. Since the poor are often most vulnerable to the impact of natural resource depletion and environmental degradation, promoting a more rational use of natural resources is also consistent with the goal of poverty alleviation.

Objectives

74. To foster a more balanced population distribution by promoting simultaneously the sustainable development of rural and urban areas, with particular emphasis on the promotion of social equity. To reduce the role of push factors in migration flows.

Selected topics for recommendations

75. Promotion of strategies that simultaneously encourage the growth of small or medium-sized urban centres and the sustainable development of rural areas. Reducing the risks of environmental degradation by developing appropriate strategies to address the problems emanating from the expansion of human settlements on areas with fragile ecosystems.

B. Population distribution policies and sustainable development strategies

Basis for action

76. Population distribution policies should be part of general development strategies. In the early 1990s, approximately half of the Governments in the world, most of them in developing countries, considered their patterns of population distribution to be unsatisfactory and wished to change them. To be effective, population distribution policies should be consistent with other government policies, especially those fostering economic development and the allocation of resources.

Objectives

77. To formulate effective population distribution policies whose objectives and goals do not conflict with other government policies. To foster administrative efficiency and improve services.

Selected topics for recommendations

78. Paying explicit attention to the spatial impact of macroeconomic and other policies that have implications for population distribution, in order to bring them into harmony with relevant national, regional and local development goals.

C. Population growth in large urban agglomerations

Basis for action

79. In many countries, the urban system is characterized by the overwhelming preponderance of a single major city or agglomeration. The tendency towards population concentration, fostered by the concentration of public and private resources in some cities, has contributed to the rising number and size of mega-cities. In 1992, there were 13 cities with at least 10 million inhabitants and their number is expected to double by the year 2010. In that year, most mega-cities will be located in the developing countries. The continued concentration of population in primate cities in general and in mega-cities in particular poses important economic, social and environmental challenges for Governments, particularly in view of the unbalanced and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and the high degree of social inequality that generally prevails in such environments.

Objectives

80. To enhance the management of urban agglomerations, reduce the urban bias that contributes to the further concentration of population in large cities, and improve the quality of life of the urban poor.

Selected topics for recommendations

81. Securing the revenue necessary for local authorities to improve urban infrastructure, safeguard the environment and provide urban services through

measures such as decentralization of expenditure and tax-raising rights, and adoption of equitable cost-recovery schemes.

D. Displaced persons

Basis for action

82. During the past decade, awareness about the situation of migrants who are forced to leave their places of usual residence for a variety of reasons has been rising. Because there is no single definition of internally displaced persons, estimates of their number vary as do the causes for their migration. However, it is generally accepted that those causes range from natural disasters that destroy human settlements to internal conflicts that force people to flee from one area of the country to another. Given the forced nature of their movement, internally displaced persons often find themselves in particularly vulnerable situations.

Objectives

83. To offer adequate protection and assistance to persons displaced within their country.

Selected topics for recommendations

84. Measures that can be taken by the international community to assure adequate protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, especially to those who are not able to return to their normal place of residence in the short term.

Chapter X

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

85. Voluntary international migration is a rational response of individuals to the real or perceived economic, social and political differences between countries. Most international migration flows are of a regional nature, with people moving between neighbouring countries or between countries in the same region. However, interregional migration, particularly that directed to developed countries, has been growing. During the 1980s, the population gains of developed countries attributable to net international migration passed from being relatively low during the early years of the decade to being relatively high towards the end. The relaxation of exit regulations in Eastern European countries contributed to that trend, as did the growing, although still moderate, outflow of migrants from developing countries. In Asia, the temporary migration of workers to the oil-producing countries of Western Asia remained significant and countries such as Japan and some of the newly industrializing economies of south-eastern Asia emerged as receivers of migrant labour. However, the trend towards increased international population mobility has not generally been matched by the willingness of countries of destination to admit more documented migrants. Given that the pressures for migration are growing in a number of developing countries, especially as their labour force continues to

increase, undocumented or irregular migration is expected to rise. Such developments, coupled with the steady growth of refugee numbers, imply that vulnerable migrant groups will increasingly need the aid of the international community.

A. International migration and development

Basis for action

86. International migration both affects and is affected by the development process. When that migration is regular, it can be beneficial for both countries of origin and destination. A number of measures can be taken by countries of origin and destination that, by addressing the causes of migration, can contribute to promote its benefits.

Objectives

87. To maximize the benefits of migration to those concerned and increase the likelihood that migration has positive consequences for the development of both sending and receiving communities.

Selected topics for recommendations

88. Assessing the effects of the economic, trade and development cooperation policies of countries of origin and destination on international migration. Realizing the full potential of return migration, both permanent and temporary, as a channel for the transfer of technology and know-how to the migrants' countries of origin.

B. Documented migrants

Basis for action

89. Documented migrants are those who satisfy all the legal requirements to enter, stay and, if applicable, to hold employment in the country of destination. Many documented migrants have acquired over time the right of long-term residence in the countries of destination. Their integration into the host society is generally desirable. Their being granted all of the rights established by the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990) would contribute to achieve that aim.

Objectives

90. To promote the social and economic integration of documented migrants, especially those who have acquired the right to long-term residence in the country of destination. To combat discriminatory practices against documented migrants, especially female migrants. To ensure protection against racism and xenophobia. To promote the welfare of documented migrant workers and members of their families.

Selected topics for recommendations

91. Ensuring equality of opportunity for documented migrants in line with the rights established in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, paying attention to the formulation of appropriate strategies to combat racism and xenophobia. Facilitating the naturalization of documented migrants who already have the right of long-term residence and of their children, and extend civil and political rights to long-term foreign residents.

C. Undocumented migrants

Basis for action

92. It is the sovereign right of every nation State to decide who can enter and stay in its territory and under what conditions. Undocumented or irregular migrants who do not fulfil the requirements established by the country of destination to enter, stay or exercise an economic activity are a source of concern. The control of undocumented migration is necessary to safeguard the rights of migrants in general and prevent the exploitation of those in an irregular situation.

Objectives

93. To control undocumented migration, prevent the exploitation of undocumented migrants and ensure that their basic human rights are protected.

Selected topics for recommendations

94. Adoption of effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration and those who exploit undocumented migrants, in particular vulnerable groups such as women and children.

D. Refugees

Basis for action

95. Two thirds of all countries in the world have ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, which guarantee the right to seek asylum. However, the growing numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers are straining the asylum system. The number of refugees, which was 8.5 million worldwide in 1985, rose to nearly 19 million early in 1993 and further increases are expected. In addition, the number of persons filing applications for asylum in developed countries has grown substantially, to average well over half a million annually during the first years of the 1990s. There is a need to combat the root causes of refugee movements, with explicit condemnation of the practice of "ethnic cleansing", and to support the international protection and assistance of refugees, particularly of refugee women and children.

Objectives

96. To reduce refugee flows by combating their root causes, to find durable solutions for the plight of refugees, to ensure the adequate protection and assistance of refugee populations and to prevent the erosion of the right to seek asylum.

Selected topics for recommendations

97. Need to combat the root causes of refugee movements by fostering conflict resolution, the promotion of peace, the respect of human rights, the alleviation of poverty, democratization, good governance and the prevention of environmental degradation. Need to ensure the adequate protection and assistance of refugees in first countries of asylum, keeping in mind the burden-sharing responsibility among the international community. Support for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and provision of reintegration assistance in conjunction with development programmes.

Part Three

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Chapter XI

POPULATION INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

98. The creation and maintenance of awareness about the importance of population issues is of crucial importance at both the national and the local levels to promote the aims and activities of population programmes and at the global level to build world-wide support for population activities. Population information, education and communication (IEC) activities usually have a broad mandate and complex functions, involving many different audiences, messages and channels of communication. These activities will require, inter alia, appropriate use of the most modern media available, accompanied by state-of-the-art monitoring techniques, for maximum effectiveness. Therefore, a coordinated strategic approach is necessary.

A. Public awareness

Basis for action

99. Public awareness is vital for groups and individuals to act constructively on population issues. Awareness is needed at several levels (professional, political, general public and individual), in both industrialized and developing countries, taking into account the differences in their situations.

Objectives

100. To create and strengthen population awareness among the various audiences in need of information, through strategies that provide for responses to specific needs.

Selected topics for recommendations

101. Creating and maintaining awareness of population issues in a large variety of groups, including opinion leaders and policy makers.

B. Information, education and communication

Basis for action

102. Attitudes that form the basis for behaviour and views on population issues are often formed early; for this reason, an approach beginning long before adulthood is required and population education in the school system is one such approach. Population education may take place in schools and elsewhere. It may begin with the home and the school system and continue with counselling for newlywed couples, followed by parent education to help them educate their own children, and continue the cycle with the education of children, young adults and even grandparents (who may tend to exert pressure on couples to have children early etc.).

Objectives

103. To take action simultaneously and in a coordinated manner on several fronts to achieve programme goals, through better strategic IEC planning. To enable activities to be more client-responsive and effective through more appropriate research and its application. To contribute to increased understanding and to the formation of responsible population attitudes and behaviour through population education, beginning at an early age.

Selected topics for recommendations

104. Adoption of comprehensive planning strategies for IEC activities, including the development of innovative ways of promoting IEC, in particular through the use of new technologies. Making high-quality population education available to all schoolchildren in the context of Education for All, paying explicit attention to human rights, population and environment, gender relationships, responsible reproductive behaviour, reproductive health and sexuality, and the consequential choices and responsibilities.

Chapter XII

CAPACITY-BUILDING

105. The fundamental purpose of mechanisms for the attainment of population goals is the generation of the capacity for countries through their Governments, non-governmental organizations and private and personal initiatives to undertake programmes of action to further their own national development, advancing the quality of life and range of choice of their people. The development of integrated programmes addressing population issues, particularly family planning, within the context of sustainable economic activity, requires the participation of appropriately trained personnel working within effective institutional arrangements. In order to assure the development and widespread availability of such a capacity, it will be necessary to facilitate the transfer of technologies and the development of training and programme-implementation institutions and the dissemination of information and managerial and administrative skills. The building of national capacities and strengthening of local and regional institutions to meet the challenges of demographic change must be a priority activity.

A. Management of programmes

Basis for action

106. National capacity-building in the areas of management skills and strategic planning is crucial to ensure the appropriate selection and deployment of trained individuals to maximize institutional effectiveness. In times of budgetary constraints for governmental and non-governmental institutions there is an increased need to ensure that trained personnel are retained and function effectively in the areas of their expertise. The existence of sufficient cadres of trained staff in population and development will also facilitate the establishment of institutional linkages within and between countries to allow

the dissemination of information and transfer of operational experience in the areas of programme development, analysis and evaluation.

Objectives

107. To improve the cost-effectiveness and impact of national population programmes, by training and retaining staff in key areas of expertise. To facilitate the flow of information between actors in national population programmes to enhance the formulation of policy and monitoring of performance. To increase accountability for performance in the implementation of national population programmes.

Selected topics for recommendations

108. Strengthening strategic management approaches in public and private population and development programmes, including the development of management information systems.

B. Education and training of policy makers, managers and other personnel

Basis for action

109. The recent trend towards decentralization of authority in many national population and development programmes, particularly in government programmes, significantly increases the requirement for training staff to meet new responsibilities at all administrative levels. This increased demand for trained personnel is added to the requirement for continued strengthening of national institutions. The decentralization trend modifies the skill-mix required in central institutions more towards policy analysis, evaluation and strategic planning in collaboration with a diverse variety of institutions. New modalities for programme implementation and development require the assessment of the adequacy of past human resource development and institution-building strategies and their modification to changing circumstances.

Objectives

110. To ensure the availability of an appropriately trained supply of personnel for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of population programmes.

Selected topics for recommendations

111. Promoting coordinated educational and training activities and advisory services related to population programmes.

C. Institutional development

Basis for action

112. In many countries and in some regions, the formulation of population and development policies, programmes and plans of action, and their implementation

and monitoring remains constrained by insufficient local capacity. The quality of technical inputs to programme formulation is, in some cases, another important bottleneck. Widespread dissemination of the lessons learned in programme implementation will be required to make the development and transfer of tested procedures and approaches more efficient.

Objectives

113. To increase national capacities for population and development programme and project formulation. To reduce attrition of trained staff. To facilitate the timely dissemination and use of information and policy analyses produced at national institutions.

Selected topics for recommendations

114. Ensuring sustained commitment by both donor and national authorities to all aspects of institution-building and maintenance, thereby increasing the share of technical activities in population being directly undertaken by national personnel.

Chapter XIII

TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

115. The need to base population and development policies and programmes on sound knowledge is increasingly recognized. The research needs involve a broad spectrum of disciplines, to measure and analyse population trends, to develop safer and more effective programme inputs and to improve the delivery of services in accordance with the conditions prevailing in various socio-economic and cultural settings.

A. Basic data collection and analysis

Basis for action

116. Important improvements have been made over the past 20 years in the collection and analysis of demographic data, as well as in population policy databases, which have become more comprehensive and systematic. Nevertheless, much crucially important work remains to be done. Indeed, in many developing countries, basic demographic data and analyses based on current direct observation are still lacking. Data on migration are generally felt to be scarce and incomplete. In all cases, there is need to continuously update, consolidate and improve data collection and analysis to keep pace with rapid and often unprecedented population trends currently taking place in many regions and in numerous newly independent countries. There is also need for greater insight into those areas and subpopulations that have been neglected in the past or where change is lagging, to help in devising appropriate action to speed the process of demographic transition.

Objectives

117. To enhance the balance, coverage and relevance of programmes of data collection and analysis, to improve the basis for analysis, interpretation and presentation of population and relevant phenomena.

Selected topics for recommendations

118. Improving the quality of basic data on vital processes and national subpopulations, taking gender into account, and making those data accessible and available on a timely basis.

B. Biomedical research and development

Basis for action

119. As a result of continuing biomedical and related research, more and more people at present have access to modern methods of fertility regulation. In many parts of the world, this has led to improved reproductive health and reduced fertility. However, a substantial degree of effort across a wide range of activities will be required to ensure that all people have the opportunity to achieve and maintain sound reproductive health and to exercise their basic right to safe and voluntary fertility regulation. Higher levels of biomedical research and development are essential elements in achieving these goals.

Objectives

120. To expand reproductive choice by developing new and improved methods of fertility regulation which are safe, effective and respond to the needs and concerns of users. To continue to ensure the long-term safety of existing and new methods of fertility regulation.

Selected topics for recommendations

121. Promoting research on all methods of fertility regulation, including women-controlled barrier methods and male methods, according to internationally accepted ethical principles and technical standards and incorporating women's perspectives into all stages of the research process and seeking the involvement of private industry and drug-regulatory agencies as partners in biomedical research. Promoting research on unsafe abortion and other aspects of reproductive health, including those related to the needs of adolescents.

C. Social and economic research and development

Basis for action

122. Greater understanding of social and behavioural processes is essential in order to achieve many of the goals of population and development programmes; such programmes should be based on accurate and culturally relevant knowledge of the people whom they seek to serve. There is need to promote research essential to the design and monitoring of population policies and programmes, in order to

ensure, inter alia, that they respond to the needs of the society at large, as well as to the needs of women and of vulnerable, marginalized and underserved people. Such research should address issues such as quality of care, cost and accessibility of services.

Objectives

123. To advance the understanding of demographic processes and their interrelations with the environment and social and economic development. To establish balanced programmes of research that are policy-relevant and action-oriented. To foster the dissemination and use of research results, particularly to policy makers and programme officers.

Selected topics for recommendations

124. Promotion of research on the broad field of interrelations between population, environment and development. Ensuring that the population programme and policy research agenda has a balance of theoretical, operational and methodological work.

Chapter XIV

NATIONAL ACTION

125. National action undertaken by countries to address their own population problems, in a broadened context of balanced social and economic development, encompasses the coordinated work of national Governments, regional or local authorities, organizations, institutions, associations, unions or communities. National action requires sound policies to ensure that the benefits of development are shared by the entire population. National, state and local community-level resource mobilization in each country according to their capacities is another priority area for action if countries are to meet the current and future demand of their people for family-planning services and other population programme needs.

A. National policies and plans of action

Basis for action

126. National Governments are primarily responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating national population policies and programmes. In many countries, clarifying the mode of interaction between the entity of the central government responsible for coordinating population policies and programmes, the sectoral ministries and other concerned parties is still a problem to be overcome. However, over-reliance on the government sector can become a bottleneck. The experience of the past decades suggests that the mobilization of sustained political commitment, not only at the highest level but also down to local leaders of the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the grass-roots level, has been an important factor behind the success of strong national population programmes. There has also been growing recognition of the fact that population policies stand a lesser chance of success in the long run if their

beneficiaries are not fully involved in their design and subsequent implementation.

Objectives

127. To address population problems through effective and concerted action within the framework of a national population policy and to achieve grass-roots involvement in formulating and implementing plans of action in the field of population.

Selected topics for recommendations

128. Increasing the political commitment of Governments to formulate, implement and evaluate their national population programmes and strengthening their capacity to enlist the cooperation of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, the mass media and other influential groups and to foster the grass-roots participation of programme beneficiaries.

B. Resource allocation

Basis for action

129. The allocation of resources at the national level generally falls into several broad categories: population data collection and analysis; policy-relevant research; awareness-creation and advocacy; capacity-building activities; policy formulation and implementation; family-planning services; IEC activities and special programmes for youth and women; and population and development. National resource mobilization is a priority area for action, in the light of the substantial increase in demand for reproductive health and family-planning services that will take place in the coming decades. Efforts to generate domestic resources to support service-delivery programmes and associated information, education and communication activities will need to be intensified, although many of the countries where the demand will be growing most rapidly are currently witnessing recessionary trends in their domestic economies.

Objectives

130. To achieve an adequate level of national resource allocation devoted to programmes aimed at resolving population problems, based on a clear understanding of the costs involved in meeting the unsatisfied demand for family-planning services and for other social-sector services, such as primary education and primary health care, which also affect population dynamics.

Selected topics for recommendations

131. Intensifying efforts to generate domestic resources to support all categories of population programme activities, with increased attention to selective use of user fees, social marketing, cost-sharing and other forms of cost-recovery.

Chapter XV

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

132. International cooperation in the area of population comprises, in addition to technical and financial assistance by bilateral and multilateral agencies to population activities in developing countries, other forms of cooperation regarding issues such as international migration and the AIDS pandemic. Attention needs to be directed as well to the comparative advantages (and disadvantages) of various modalities for the provision of international assistance. International technical and financial assistance has played an important role in facilitating the efforts of national Governments to devise and implement population policies and programmes but has not kept pace with growing resource requirements as more and more developing countries have formulated and begun to implement national population policies and programmes. National population and development programmes need to receive stable, consistent and appropriate levels of international support, taking into account the balance and relationship between international assistance directed to population-related activities and international cooperation connected to broader areas of socio-economic development.

A. Modalities

Basis for action

133. The coordination of international inputs to population and development is primarily the responsibility of Governments. However, reducing duplication of efforts, identifying and expanding successful programmes and ensuring maximal effectiveness is also a task that profits considerably from the cooperation of all donors and active participants, including the specialized agencies and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

Objectives

134. To assure the effective and coordinated use of various mechanisms of assistance for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national population programmes. To ensure the full mobilization of national (governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector) participants in the national population programme for effective action in their areas of particular competence, expertise and comparative advantage. To monitor performance of the various components of the national population programme to assure that appropriate technical and material contributions are made by organizations according to their capacities.

Selected topics for recommendations

135. Coordination of international organizations and donor nations to encourage use of multilateral and multi-bilateral mechanisms, including technical back-stopping, to guarantee consistency and continuity of support to programmes, based on the analysis of the impact and cost-effectiveness of such mechanisms and in line with comprehensive national development strategies.

B. Resource mobilization: Bilateral and multilateral development assistance

Basis for action

136. Little progress has been made over the past 5-10 years towards reaching the earlier goals articulated in the donor community for support for population activities as proportions of their overseas development assistance or as proportions of their gross national product. The current average is 1.3 per cent, compared to 2 per cent in the early 1970s. Nevertheless, there remains a strong consensus on the need to mobilize significant additional financial resources both from the international community and within countries for the implementation of national population programmes in support of sustainable development policies. Additional resources are required, inter alia, to satisfy the existing unmet need for family-planning services, respond to future increases in demand, keep pace with the increased population sizes that must be served, and improve the quality of care of programmes. Although intensified additional efforts to mobilize domestic resources are needed and projected, additional financial resources from the international community will be required especially to assist the least developed countries and countries implementing structural adjustment programmes, including so-called countries in transition.

Objectives

137. To satisfy the growing resource requirements of population programmes.

Selected topics for recommendations

138. Mechanisms for the international community to establish guidelines/recommendations for assistance levels as proportions of gross domestic product and overseas development assistance, on the basis of updated estimates for resource requirements consistent with the scale of efforts needed to achieve the quantitative goals adopted by the Conference and taking into consideration the constraints created by economic reform and structural adjustment programmes.

Chapter XVI

PARTNERSHIPS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

139. There is an increasing recognition of the need for a partnership on population and development issues between Governments and non-governmental groups, which are composed of non-governmental organizations, the private sector and local community organizations. In some areas of population and development activities, non-governmental groups may have comparative advantages in relation to governmental agencies, either because their experience of advocacy and programme implementation (especially at the local level) predate that of Governments, or because they represent and interact with constituencies that are poorly served and hard to reach through governmental channels. Non-governmental groups operate locally, nationally and, in some cases, internationally, often

having networks and affiliates facilitating cooperation at all levels and enhancing partnership among themselves and with Governments. Where they are working on population and development activities as partners with Governments, the quality of services has often improved markedly.

Basis for action

140. Non-governmental organizations have been actively involved in the provision of services for population and development programmes and projects and support activities such as data collection and analysis. They have been working as partners with Governments in delivering services and helping implement population and development programmes; in many cases this partnership has been instrumental in ensuring that national policy goals were achieved. They also have acted as catalysts for change, often serving as a voice for previously unrecognized concerns, reaching underserved populations, setting quality standards responsive to the beneficiaries' needs and developing innovative approaches.

141. In many countries, the private sector has the financial capacity and the technology to produce and deliver commodities and services in the population field, and Governments usually rely to some extent on the private sector for the procurement of such programme inputs. This has produced a valuable partnership, which the private sector is keen to expand. By acknowledging the valuable contribution of the private sector, and by seeking more areas for cost-effective and mutually beneficial cooperation, Governments may expect to enhance the efficiency of population and development activities.

142. Local community organizations vary from country to country. In some countries, Governments helped establish them and in others they have been created by the communities themselves. They range from the family and kinship to political, social, economical, religious and educational institutions and organizations. They are generally well-established and continue from one generation to the next, providing a social framework for their communities. They are generally seen as meeting the needs of families and individuals and their role as providers of services is widely and favourably acknowledged. Numerous development processes can be encouraged by fostering the partnership between Governments and local community organizations. Some who already provide a number of social services could readily be encouraged to also participate in population activities.

Objectives

143. To enhance the partnership between Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and local communities in order to attain a more effective working relationship and to identify new areas for cooperative activity, including, as appropriate, the efficient production of population programme commodities and the fair-cost delivery of services.

Selected topics for recommendations

144. Creating suitable mechanisms and frameworks to enhance the role of non-governmental organizations in the field of population. Promoting the effective use of the experience and resources of the private sector to achieve

population and development goals. Ensuring the participation of local communities in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes.

Chapter XVII

FOLLOW-UP

145. In order to ensure that commitments made at the Conference are implemented with tangible results, it will be necessary to make arrangements appropriate for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. At the level of the United Nations system, this should involve increased integration of population concerns into social and economic development efforts, including policy development. Arrangements will need to be outlined to ensure ongoing monitoring, review and appraisal of the outcome of the Conference. Attention will also need to be given to effective follow-up at the operational level, particularly in regard to funding, technical assistance and coordination.

A. Implementation

Basis for action

146. The World Population Plan of Action, adopted in 1974, contained a number of recommendations related to institutional arrangements for its proper implementation, further elaborated by the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, held at Mexico City in 1984. Similarly, there will be a need for the Cairo Conference to consider how best to organize the involvement of the international community of Governments, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental bodies to assist Governments in the implementation of the new action programme adopted by the Conference, also in view of the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences of the decade, particularly the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Social Summit and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Objectives

147. To ensure the effective implementation of the new action programme.

Selected topics for recommendations

148. Ensuring the integration of population concerns in governmental, non-governmental and international development efforts through appropriate arrangements.

B. Monitoring and review

Basis for action

149. The World Population Plan of Action called for continuous monitoring and periodic review and appraisal of its implementation. Accordingly, three quinquennial review and appraisal exercises have been carried out to assess the progress in the implementation of the Plan and a fourth one will take place at the Cairo Conference. The Conference may find it necessary to establish appropriate mechanisms for the monitoring and review of its action programme.

Objectives

150. To assess the progress in the implementation of the action programme adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development and take necessary measures to guide further action.

Selected topics for recommendations

151. Establishing accurate and timely mechanisms for assessing the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the action programme adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

2/ Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda), chap. I, sect. B.

3/ Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6-9 November 1989 (New York, United Nations Population Fund, 1990), annex.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex I.

5/ Ibid., resolution 1, annex II.

6/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

7/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

8/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

9/ General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX).

10/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

11/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/69 J of 14 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Emphasizes the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university;
>
> "2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for establishing the University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds', in accordance with Assembly resolution 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, giving due consideration to the recommendations consistent with the provisions of that resolution;
>
> "3. Calls once more upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate in the implementation of the present resolution and to remove the hindrances that it has put in the way of establishing the University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds';
>
> "4. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

2. It will be recalled that the General Assembly first considered the establishment of the proposed university at its thirty-fifth session. At that

session it adopted, on 3 November 1980, resolution 35/13 B, in paragraph 5 of which it requested:

> "the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Council of the United Nations University, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to study ways and means of establishing at Jerusalem a university of arts and sciences to cater to the needs of Palestine refugees in the area, under the aegis of the United Nations".

3. Since then, the General Assembly has adopted 12 further resolutions on the subject (36/146 G of 16 December 1981, 37/120 C of 16 December 1982, 38/83 K of 5 December 1983, 39/99 K of 14 December 1984, 40/165 K of 16 December 1985, 41/69 K of 3 December 1986, 42/69 K of 2 December 1987, 43/57 J of 6 December 1988, 44/47 J of 8 December 1989, 45/73 J of 11 December 1990, 46/46 J of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 J of 14 December 1992) and the Secretary-General has submitted 11 reports (A/37/599, A/38/386, A/39/528, A/40/543, A/41/457, A/42/309, A/43/408, A/44/474, A/45/530, A/46/540 and A/47/601) on the steps he has taken in pursuance of those resolutions, including his efforts to prepare the functional feasibility study on establishing the proposed university that was first requested by the Assembly in its resolution 36/146 G. The position of the Government of Israel in regard to the establishment of the university is also set out in those reports.

4. As the Secretary-General has previously indicated (see A/41/457, para. 4), he believes that, in order to comply with the request addressed to him by the General Assembly, it will be necessary to complete the functional feasibility study initiated in pursuance of previous Assembly resolutions. To that end, after Assembly resolution 47/69 J was adopted, the Secretary-General again sought the assistance of the Rector of the United Nations University, who, at his request, made available a highly qualified expert, Dr. Mihaly Simai, to assist in the preparation of the study. The expert was to visit the area and meet with the competent Israeli officials, bearing in mind that Israel exercises effective authority in the area concerned.

5. In a note verbale dated 16 August 1993 addressed to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, the Secretary-General, with reference to the request addressed to him by the General Assembly, requested that the Government of Israel facilitate the visit of the expert, which would take place at a mutually convenient date. Recalling the position taken by the Government of Israel concerning the proposed university, as well as the clarifications already given by the Secretariat to the questions raised by the Israeli authorities (see A/36/593, annex), the Secretary-General expressed the opinion that such questions could be best discussed on the occasion of the visit of the United Nations expert.

6. On 23 August 1993, the Permanent Representative of Israel sent the following reply to the Secretary-General:

> "In this connection, the Permanent Representative would like to recall his note of 15 June 1993 1/ addressed to the Secretary-General, in which

the position of the Government of Israel concerning resolution 47/69 J was clarified.

"The Government of Israel has voted consistently against the above-mentioned resolution and its position remains unchanged. Accordingly, the Government of Israel is of the opinion that the proposed visit of Dr. Mihaly Simai to Israel would not serve any useful purpose."

7. In view of the position taken by the Government of Israel, it has not been possible to complete the functional feasibility study on the proposed university at Jerusalem as planned.

Notes

1/ The note in question addressed several resolutions, many of which have been the subject of other reports of the Secretary-General. With respect to General Assembly resolution 47/69 J, the note of 15 June 1993 said:

"The position of the Government of Israel on this subject was clarified in a statement by the representative of Israel on 15 December 1983 (A/38/PV.98); in a letter of the Permanent Representative of Israel dated 22 May 1984 to then Under-Secretary-General Mr. Brian Urquhart; in successive notes verbales of the Permanent Representative of Israel to the Secretary-General, the last of which was dated 23 October 1992; and in the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/601).

"The Government of Israel has consistently voted against this resolution for reasons outlined in the aforementioned statement and documents and its position remains unchanged. It is clear that the sponsors of resolution 47/69 J seek to exploit the field of higher education in order to politicize issues totally extraneous to genuine academic pursuits. Accordingly, the Government of Israel is unable to assist in taking this matter further."